

From: Frank Cox
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/23/02 4:00pm
Subject: I'm opposed to the settlement

As a long-time computer hobbyist and amateur programmer (I have been playing with computers for about 25 years now) I am strongly opposed to the proposed settlement in the US v Microsoft antitrust case.

Microsoft has gone from "one more software company" to THE software company, and this is not healthy for an industry which is as fast-growing and innovative as the computer industry should be.

I say that it should be fast-growing and innovative, but unfortunately Microsoft's view is that anything that is bad for Microsoft is bad for the industry and this is not the case. Many promising technologies and companies have come and gone because Microsoft either bought them out to make them disappear or "cut off their air supply" in the infamous words of the Netscape trial.

Microsoft in its current form is bad for the future of the computer industry in the USA and throughout the world. This proposed settlement is bad for the future of the computer industry as it will simply give Microsoft a pass to continue to squash anyone who looks like a competitor.

How many companies have not brought a new innovation forward simply because "if we do, Microsoft will kill us"? We will never know the answer to that question.

I am not a US citizen. I am Canadian. However, I hope that my comment will be taken into consideration because the computer industry is world-wide and Microsoft's influence is (unfortunately) worldwide as well.

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